

## MINUTES

**SELECT BOARD/ASSESSORS' MEETING  
TUESDAY, DECEMBER 5, 2023  
WILLIAM L. PULLEN MUNICIPAL BUILDING MEETING ROOM  
ONLINE NON-INTERACTIVE ON TOWN HALL STREAMS  
6:30 p.m.**

**Select Board present:** Adam Fuller, Martha Johnston-Nash, Wayne Kirkpatrick, and Linda Mountainland

**Others present:** Jay Feyler (Town Manager), Jerry Brooks, John Mountainland, Jesse Thompson, Steve Migliorini, Matt Speno, John Gibbons, Greg Grotton, and others

- 1. Call Select Board Meeting to Order:** at 6:30 p.m. by Adam Fuller.
- 2. Pledge of Allegiance**
- 3. Open public hearing on Metallic Mining Ordinance Moratorium Extension:**

Adam reminded the ordinance cannot be changed during that time; this just extends it (the moratorium) another 180 days.

Motion to open MMOME public hearing by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
4-0

- 4. Close public hearing on MMOME:**

Motion to close MMOME public hearing by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
4-0

- 5. Approve Minutes of Tuesday, November 21, 2023:**

Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash

Martha had a correction on page 3, re: Sestercentennial: the committee sent out a newsletter, not Martha.

Amended motion to approve as above by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
4-0

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**6. Approve Treasurer’s Warrants dated Tuesday, December 5, 2023:**

Motion by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

4-0

**7. Vote to extend the Metallic Moratorium an additional 180 days:**

Motion to extend the Mining Ordinance Moratorium pursuant to Title 30-A, Subsection 2356, for an additional 180 days by: Martha Johnston-Nash

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

4-0

**8. Chief Thompson request to discuss fire apparatus:**

Chief Jesse Thompson said they recently pulled Engine 2, a 1979 Ford cabover, out of service due to the fact that it really has not gone anywhere except the fairgrounds for special events, and the lights (including headlights) malfunction going over bumps. It has an electrical gremlin, and for the age of the vehicle it does not make sense to spend money to try and fix it.

He is looking to dispose of that truck in the most reasonable manner. There are two ways: 1) through the MMA website or fire truck trader; or 2) donate or sell it (\$1) to the Union Fairgrounds for use at mud runs, etc. Discussion followed. Wayne mentioned donating it to Vinalhaven. Adam confirmed it is at public works, basically put up. Jay noted it was taken out of service by our insurance carrier, which is the same one Vinalhaven has.

Motion that we ask Vinalhaven if they would be interested in the above truck, and if not, see if the fair association is interested in it by: Martha Johnston-Nash

Jay asked for clarification, donate vs. sell. Discussion followed. Jesse estimated the value for scrapping the truck would be \$6,000 to \$8,000. He added there is a lot of steel; unlike newer trucks the water tank is solid steel. Adam asked Jesse to do a little homework.

Motion to allow Jesse to make the best decision on the above truck after he makes some phone calls, the options being Vinalhaven if they are interested in it as a fire truck, scrap, or the fair by: Martha Johnston-Nash

Jesse said he will make sure the town manager is in concert with the decision.

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

4-0

Jesse also said they have been working on trying to spec out a new fire truck which is well overdue. This is the year they would like to purchase that, and it will not be cheap.

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He said it will be about a two-year wait before the new truck comes, and Engine 1 will be coming due in three years. He noted that truck is still in good shape – they take very good care of their equipment – plus it is pre-emissions which saves a lot of headaches. The plan would be to purchase the new truck, then when it comes send Engine 1 out to be refurbished which a lot of departments are starting to do with their fire apparatus. Then when Engine 1 comes back, they would more than likely put Engine 4 out of service, which would make the fire department more right-sized for what they can do and for what they are doing currently.

Discussion followed. In answer to John Mountainland on the cost of refurbished vs. new, Jesse said it depends on the degree of refurbishment but it is at least half, if not less than that, of the cost of new. He said the new fire apparatus will be close to a million dollars; the refurbished one will probably be closer to \$200,000 or less. In answer to Linda, he reiterated that Engine 4 would be retired. He noted life expectancy for a fire apparatus is approximately 20 years.

Jesse also brought up an ambulance he found through Autotronics (the same company they bought the current ambulance from) from Van Buren – a 2015 Chevy van chassis, diesel, 60,000 miles on it. It comes with a stretcher, cardiac monitor mount, lettering, decaling, etc.

In answer to Adam, Jesse said this ambulance will allow them to remain in service when the current ambulance is out of service due to maintenance or something breaking, and hopefully potentially to answer second calls. They are currently not adding staff. He also noted there will be major changes coming at the local/county level.

### **9. Town Manager's Report:**

Jay said he had a request from TMA about putting a Christmas tree out on the corner in front of the (TCC) building. He gave preliminary approval for that. They were going to hook into a light socket outside the door; Abe checked it out, and the electricity was fading in and out there. The question arose of opening a window to put a cord, which Jay wanted to bring to the board. Steve Migliorini gave a rundown. Discussion followed. Adam clarified only Abe would be going in the building.

Motion that Abe shoves a cord through there (TCC), shuts the window, secures it, and puts a Christmas tree in by: Wayne Kirkpatrick

2<sup>nd</sup> by: Linda Mountainland

3-0-1 abstention (Johnston-Nash)

Martha added the Chamber has extra stakes. Adam added if Abe thinks there is an issue with the electrical, let the board know and they will go with solar.

Jay said there will be an uptick in General Assistance due to the cold/need for heating oil. They have been working at the legislative policy committee to get Maine State Housing,

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who handles LIHEAP (the energy assistance program), to get that down to the local level where it can be taken care of immediately.

He also said they have a list of 18 students from very poor families for whom we are doing Christmas stuff, which is part of the I. C. Thurston Fund as discussed last month. We will also provide food to about 35 families in the next few weeks. He will reach out to board members and others re: distributing this very quickly. He said let him know of any families that really need food, and he will add them to the list. He noted we are restricted to Union residents with the I. C. Thurston Fund.

He also said he just got a report that somebody from the TCC Working Group will do a report after select board meetings. The group met with Matthew last week, rewriting the RFQ which the board should get tonight or tomorrow to tweak. They will then have a committee meeting and vote on it some time in January. The RFQ will go out and then it will become a public document; the select board will become more involved at that point. He added hopefully we will have a good number of people interested, the committee will do their work, and come back to the board with a recommendation early in the year. He noted it is a very condensed RFQ this time.

He also said re: snow days, we are back to a full (Public Works) crew. Jacoby Leavitt, a great employee, came back. Our youngest employee Corey, a mechanic, will learn a lot from him, and it will be nice to have two mechanics.

### 10. Other Business:

Jay explained there are two properties we did a foreclosure on (Richard Camber, Daphne Greif). Both were foreclosed on and both redeemed, i.e., the board voted to sell them back to the owners who paid all their taxes up to current, etc. The bills were listed under the Town of Union, not the owners, which Stacey caught. The board needs to vote to sign the supplemental tax warrant and supplemental tax certificate, and the bills will go out (to the owners) tomorrow giving them a little bit of additional time, the same number of weeks everybody else gets before interest is charged. Jay noted this will probably come back to the board at some point to waive interest.

Motion to approve the supplemental tax certificate by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
4-0

Motion to approve the supplemental tax warrant by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
4-0

Jay handed out Election Clerk certificates of appointment for the board to sign.

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### 11. Public Comment:

Matt Speno spoke as a citizen about his positive interactions with the board and his deep reflection on the new sign outside the town office. He discussed the sign and possible policy and procedure development for operating it, with which he would like to help. He also discussed EMT staffing and mining ordinance info vis a vis the sign.

Adam said a policy on public messaging is a moving target, we are constantly trying to improve. He welcomed the feedback and acknowledged we have some work to do. The board thanked Matt.

Jay said he replied to the letter from Mr. Duke (referenced by Matt). Jay added that what everybody is not aware of is that Maine Municipal is working to train EMTs, assessors, code officers, etc. He was part of the original group. They want to work with vocational schools. They are working with UMA, Husson, USM, the Muskie School where Jay has taught, etc. He put that back to Bob who said he was too busy.

Matt said he appreciated that and thanked the board. He added there is a school board meeting next coming Thursday if anyone wants to join. In answer to Adam, he said he was unsure about livestreaming being up and running but that will be coming – the owl, PowerPoint technology, etc.

### 12. Committee Reports:

#### a. Broadband

John Gibbons said a lot is going on behind the scenes that is difficult to talk about. LCI remains committed to the new funding source that has certain advantages, the biggest of which is it extends for a period of 15 years, so after they expand the network reaching all the unserved addresses in Union, there will be continued funding for another 10 years that will allow them to keep up with increasing demand and upgrade the equipment in their central office so that people will not see a slowdown as other people come online.

He said there are a couple of cons, but they are manageable. It will be a month or two before we get much more detail. Re: schedule, it is likely that the fiber network expansion will begin in the next few months just like the schedule they had been working on up to now. It could take longer to reach completion with this new funding source. LCI is not going to acknowledge that, but we know due to the structure of the funding source that's a real possibility.

He added due to what's going on right now, it is probably important for us to at least stay in touch with the other ISPs who have leads to Union. They are continuing to do that. He almost always tells them we can't be a channel for

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disseminating information about what other ISPs are doing, which they appreciate. The board thanked John.

- b. Green Space – None.
- c. Sestercentennial

Martha said there is a lot going on. The recording was not turned on at last night's meeting. Argy sent a report. They are continuing to do the recordings community members' stories, having gotten an additional couple since the last report. The email newsletter and facebook page have grown. Noting they hope to get to 300 by January 1, she encouraged everyone to go to facebook and follow "Celebrating Union's 250 Years."

She said the Vose Library has a display of newspaper clippings and photos from the Bicentennial, maybe from the collection of Ralph Burridge. She wanted to publicly thank Ralph Burridge for sharing it.

She said the committee participated in the Chamber's lighting of the Christmas trees on Sunday night and handed out more wooden nickels. They participated with the Chamber in the decorating of the trees by the elementary school and talked about the history of the Common and the town. They continue working diligently and planning more event details.

An attendee mentioned a livestream of the meeting before last night that was only seven minutes long and hard to hear. Jay said he normally gets an email if there's a glitch in the system and got none. Adam said Martha brought it up to Argy and emailed about the camera, so hopefully it will be better going forward. He added Martha has the most experience with this system, and she was not at the last two meetings.

Adam confirmed there will be a compilation of all the community members' stories, and he looks forward to the blooper reels.

He also mentioned an application for Aging in Place, which Jay received but has not yet reviewed. Jay mentioned their fall luncheon. Adam wanted to drum up support as it was such a good committee in the past.

- d. Ambulance Advisory

Jay said they meet tomorrow or next Wednesday night. They are going to start working on their budget.

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### 13. Select Board Report:

Greg Grotton said Mildred O’Jala, holder of the Boston Post Cane, died and they need to find someone else. Jay said it is on the next agenda; they usually wait until after the services. He noted the family brought in the cane. In answer to Adam, Martha confirmed that Mrs. O’Jala was recorded on October 2, fortunately; she was 102 and passed the day after Thanksgiving. Most everyone knew her.

Adam said he was not able to attend a bunch of stuff this week, including the Christmas tree lighting, but he thought it looked great and really liked the red, white, and blue around the Veterans Memorial. He noted how nice it is driving through the Common.

Jay said the town office holiday luncheon will be on December 19.

### 14. Adjourn:

Motion by: Wayne Kirkpatrick  
2<sup>nd</sup> by: Martha Johnston-Nash  
4-0

Meeting adjourned at 7:40 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Sherry Abaldo  
Secretary